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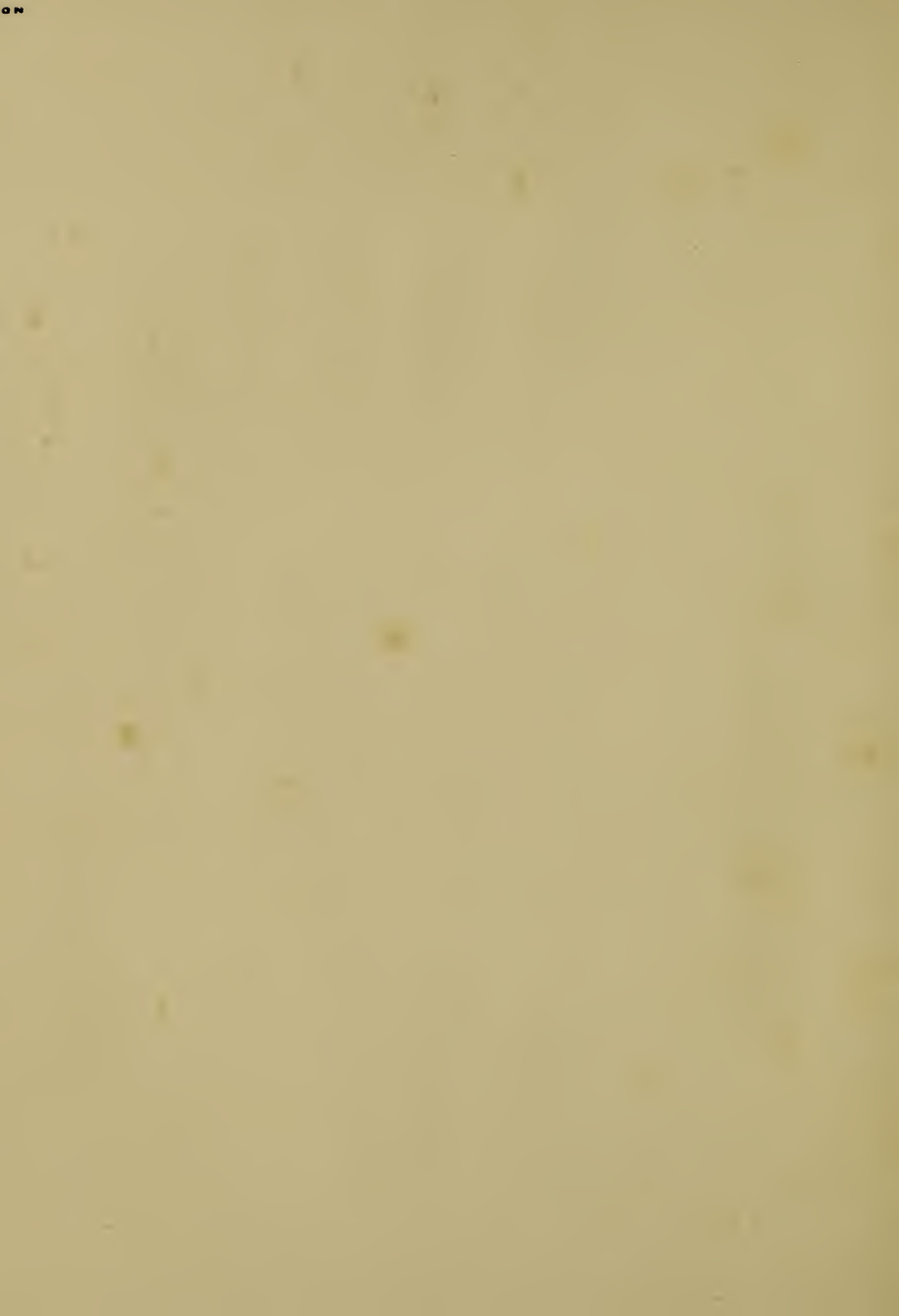


The gift of  
Louis Nye

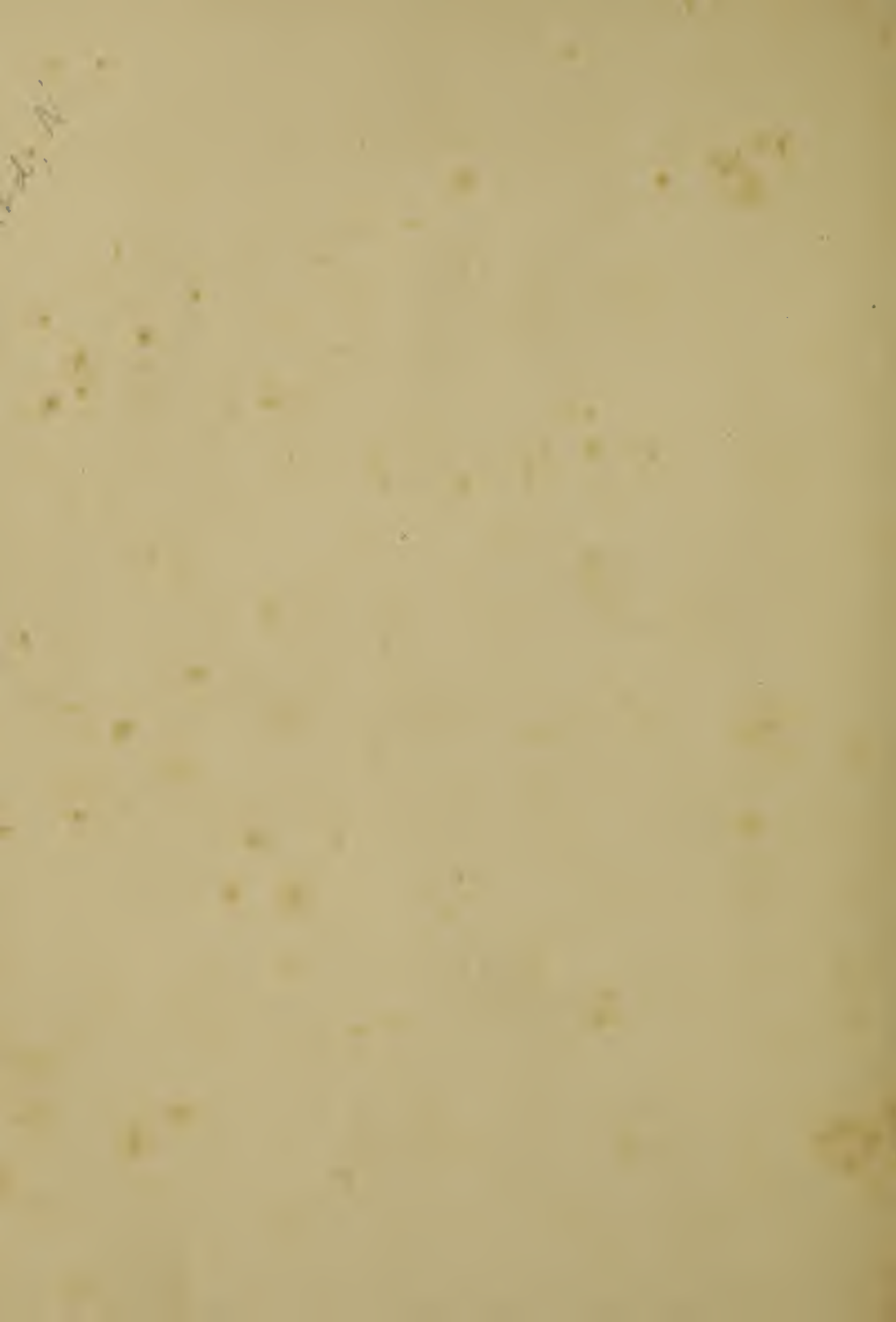
Ward (Nathaniel) author of "The Simple  
- in Multitude" also "Native & Foreign"  
Vol 11, 1867 page 217 "American"  
which he wrote  
at Ipswich  
Massachusetts

Published  
anonymously

While he  
resided,  
settling to  
become Vicar of  
Sheffield House  
in 1846







To the  
HIGH and HONORABLE  
Parliament  
O F  
ENGLAND

Now assembled at  
*WESTMINSTER.*

The Humble Petitions, Serious Suggestions, and dutifull Expostulations of some moderate and loyall Gentlemen, Yeomen, and Freeholders of the Easterne  
*ASSOCIATION.*

These Petitions, &c. had beene formally presented to the Parliament, but for the reasons rendred at the latter end.

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*LONDON,*

Printed for *Ralph Smith* at the sign of the Bible in  
Cornhill neer the Royall Exchange 1648.



TO THE  
HIGH AND HONORABLE

PARLIAMENT

OF

ENGLAND

W. A. S. M. I. N. S. T. E. R.

The House of Commons  
one and twenty Petitioners of the  
under and in the County of  
and the County of  
1810

That Petitioners do hereby shew that  
and to the Parliament for the year  
1810

LONDON

Printed by W. A. S. M. I. N. S. T. E. R.  
1810





To the High and Honourable *Parliament of England*, now assembled  
at *Westminster*.

The humble Petitions, serious Suggestions, and  
dutifull Expostulations of some moderate, and loy-  
all Gentlemen, Yeomen, and Freeholders of the  
Easterne Association.

Who neither are, nor ever were suspected to be Malig-  
nants, but such as sincerely wish much Mercy and Peace  
to this sadly distressed Kingdome.

**W**E need not put your Honours in mind, that God  
who is the Sovereigne Lord of all Principalities  
and Powers in Heaven and earth, doth not onely  
permit, but delight, to be earnestly pleaded with  
by the sinfull sonnes of men, in cases of their extre-  
mities; and hath given Commission to Subjects, to argue free-  
ly with their Rulers, when his Honour, and their welfare have  
been upon their utmost hazards.

Nor are we ignorant, that your Selves have pleased to ad-  
mit such as ought not to capitulate with you very boldly, and  
proudly, to the excessive grief and perpetuall reproach of the  
whole Nation; yea to the exautorating, and well neare the ad-  
nulling of our Parliament; we therefore humbly beseech you to  
give us leave, in this most perilous paroxysme of State, not onely  
to present our just feares and desires, but to expostulate with  
you somewhat closely, yet very respectfully, concerning some  
things, wherein we dare be no longer silent, unless we should  
resolve to dare God to break forth again into just, and hot dis-  
pleasure against us.

The bitter Dissentions of this distracted Kingdome, The insupportable Oppressions of the imperious Souldiery, The tedious Suspensions of the undispaching Parliament, have layen so long, and heavie upon the wearied backs of the Subjects of this Realme, that we are amazed to consider with what deafe eares, their bones are dayly heard to crack curses upon the heads of such as are the Caufers, and the hearts of such as will not be the Curers thereof; when they ought, and may. They begin to crack so loud, that we hold it our bounden duty to speak speedily, least they crack themselves, and the whole Kingdome all in pieces, before it can be prevented.

The Dissensions, are both Civil, and Ecclesiastick; to shred these into so many subdivisions, as they have shred themselves, is more then your Honours we or can attend. We shal take leave to speak only to the most generall, and capitall.

First of such as concerne Religion; wherein the glory of our mercifull God, the honour of the Gospel of Christ, the prosperity of our Nation, the salvation of our, and our childrens souls are so deeply interested.

Is the Religion of *England*, Right Honourable, wherein we, and our Fathers have been so long instructed, now on a sudden become such a riddle? Are the Scriptures grown of late so abstruse? Is Christ so divided? Or is the Parliament rather so distempered; That no possible counsell can be given, nor taken for reconciling of the differences about Church-government, but by granting such a Toleration as the Sectaries desire? Wherein they would have 24 Articles, of our established Confession, laid waste at once, and a Mine provided to blow up the rest as fast as may be.

Is not all the Piety and Wisdome of *England* able to erect a Throne of Truth and Grace for God to dwell amongst us, without building Cathedrals for the Devill and his Covent? Is this the best and first-fruit of our offerings to our redeemer, for the wonderfull works he hath so lately wrought for us? Have we rooted out Bishops, Ceremonies, and Superstitions, to plant Errors, Schismes, and Sectaries, in their roome? Do we study to cancell the verity, and stability of our religion in the minds of all ignorant, and carnall men? Have we prayed and fought all this while to make our selves an hissing-stocke to Papists, and Atheists? Have we been at such immense charges for temporall peace, and



and shall we now lay ground-workes for spirituall, and perpetuall disquiet? Shall the end of our defensive war against our King, be the beginning of our offensive against our God? Have we suppressed the Rebellion of others, that our selves may take up a Rebellion against Christ? Have we set our selves free from the usurpation of man, and shall we now imprison God, and his Truth in error and unrighteousnes? Have we subdued uncivill insolencies, to exalt unchristian presumptions? Shall we now call that Conscience, which is nothing but a false fume, and a vaine vapour? Shall we call those tender consciences, which are so audacious as to turcask the revealed, and sealed Standard of our salvation, and conversation, to the mishapen models of their intoxicated phantasies? Shall any man have an immunity to hold an error, because himselfe is held a Saint? God forbid.

We cannot conceive, Right Honorable, with all the understanding God hath given us, how an inlightned Parliament can enact a Toleration of any Error, against any known Truth of God, without sinning wittingly, willingly and presumptuously: of which sins this Kingdome hath no need: Nor suffer any essentiall Truth of God to hang in question, when he hath given an Ordinance to determine it, without wilfull and sinfull negligence.

You were pleased not long since, to proclaim a Fast more then ordinarily solemn, for the suppression of Errors, Sects & Schismes; should you now be prevailed with, in your next speciall Act, to grant a liberty for them; we shall be humbly bold, to thinke it, the most dareing peice of hypocrisy, that ever English Parliament committed: Nor can we conceive how a State can suffer two dissenting formes of Church-Goverment, in one, and the same Policy, unles it be a state, whose Religion is little else but forme, and Policy, if they have power to help it, which blessed be God is every where at hand, whensoever you will call for it.

The Scriptures admonish us, that all holy Covenants, are established in the blood of Christ, or in the blood of those that make, and breake them, and is our most sacred ingagement, onely plighted in unhallow froth, or common scum? Is our everlasting Covenant for matter, and forme already become an old Almanacke? Shall all the sacred Oaths, of so many Christians given, and taken with all the piety, and sincerity this Nation can afford, be prostrated, and frustrated, by the profane pens of infamous persons? Shall a Religious Parliament suffer this Religious Kingdome,

dome, to undergoe such reproach, in all Christian Kingdomes of the world, to the utter scorne of our Honour and honesty, and passe it by in silence? God forbid.

Most Honourable, we most earnestly beseech you with broken hearts, and bowed knees, that you would now gird up your loynes, with all fresh, and firme indeavours to order the worship of God, and his discipline throughout his Churches, according to his prescript will, sufficiently revealed to all that will see it, and not according to the wits and wils of corrupted, misguided; and self-ended men: For we are well assured, that that one way of God may be found out, if you please; And that you would not onely permit, but establish it so positively, and fully, that neither Satan, nor Sectaries, nor any other may elude or evade it. It very ill becomes a religious Parliament to dally with holy things, especially foundation of Churches.

That our solemn Covenant may be practically celebrated, with all strict observation, without delay, and that generally from the very highest to the lowest, under just penalties. Your Petitioners desire in some measure to fear the Lord, and to dread his fearfull judgements: The God of *England* is a jealous God, a consuming fire, we have lately felt him so, we beseech you for his tender mercy sake, that we may grieve his Spirit no more, and that you would not expose us again to the deadly strokes of his dreadfull wrath.

We also most humbly petition you, with all importunity, that you would please not to think of any Toleration; which cannot be clearly warranted by the Word of God: If any thing be already passed, which it doth not allow, that you would esteeme it your highest honour, to repeale it: For we undoubtedly beleve, if God intends a new edition of good to this sinfull Nation, he will never indure such a many headed monster of Hell, as the Toleration our Sectaries ayme at: Yea be not your Honours offended, if we protest in the Name, and feare of God, that if any unlawfull Toleration be granted, we will never give the Parliament of England rest, so long as we can move our tongues in our mouths, or our pens in our hands, till it be reversed. We humbly beseech you to pardon our pious zeale herein, whereunto we are compelled by the impious solicitations of Sectaries, and their Adherents on the other hand; But we shall labour to pray, and beleve, that God will not onely guide you in the waies of his truth;  
and



and not of their desires, but also perswade you that it is as impossible a State should be settled in civil Peace till the Religion thereof be firmly and sincerely established, as for the humours of a naturall body to be quiet so long as the soule is distracted and discomposed.

Although we are very unwilling to give offence to any Member of Parliament, yet we know not how to avoid this occasion, to intreat those Knights and Burgesses of our Counties, and Corporations, who have cleaved so close to Sectaries, and the armie, stirred so little against Tolerations, and such as have so much absented themselves from the House, where their presence and assistance have been so requisite, to understand, that as we know them well at present, so we purpose to know them better hereafter, and trust them lesse, hoping that all other Counties and Corporations of the Kingdom will do the like : For if such as these either feare God truly, or love their Countrey truly, we are either ignorant, or uncharitable men. On the other side, we gratefully acknowledge, that there are many in both Houses, who have abundantly testified their fidelity to the State, stood orthodox in their Religion, held constant to their Principles and Professions : such as these we humbly intreat them to know, their Honors and Names are written in our hearts with letters so legible and indeleble, that whensoever they have occasion to use us in any service to God, the Kingdom, or themselves, they shall be able to read them without spectacles, and shall find that we have been sensible of their great discouragements.

Concerning civill dissentions, we shall onely mention three or four, whereof the prime and most irreconcilable is between our King and Parliament, and that about the *Negative voice*, and *Militia*.

As we are sadly grieved, that his Majesty is so inexorable in these two points of State, which under favour, we apprehend God never did, nor in his wisdom ever can commit to the discretion of any one man whatsoever, in his laps'd estate. Nor that any King on earth that is truly and humbly wise, dare desire to keep in his sole custody the Key of the being and wel-being of a whole Nation, nor that any Nation which have the principles of men, will ever betrust their lives, liberties, awes, and estates to the prudence and fidelity of any one mortall man whomsoever, if they may avoid it.

So on the other side, we are not a little troubled, that a Parliament of learned and experienced Patriots, cannot in so long time contrive such an intermediate way, by mutuall select counsels, right partitions, due proportions, rationall distinctions, divine lots, valuable hostages, by altering or abating the Oath of Coronation, or some other safe Cautionaries, so provide for the dignity of Majesty, and safety of Subjects, that no perfidious, or pernicious mischiefs may accrue to the one or the other.

This difference is grown so high, that if we may beleieve printed & licenc'd paper; or comon reports, there are purposes, if not preparations, to depose his Majesty from his Rule. An Act too transcendent for us to interpose our shallow thoughts, yet of such concernment to the State, that we dare not but be humbly bold to present these our urgent Petitions to this Honorable Assembly,

That if it be possible, some moderate and mercifull mean may be mediated, rather then such an Earthquake made in three Kingdomes, with all their Allies and Confederates, as may too probably subvert the very foundations of our lives and beings, by awakening endlesse war upon our Brittish Scenes.

That you would be pleased to consider humbly and timely, that as God doubtlesse hath a very heavy controversie with our King, so no question he hath the like against us subjects: If his sins be said to be scarlet, we wish it might not be said, ours are of a very deep crimson; so that we may truly feare, that as God gave us a King in his anger, so he may take him away in his wrath; yea in his deep displeasure against us as well as him.

That you would take care that it may never be storied that a Parliament of England in a time of Reformation of Religion, determin'd anything capitally against a King upon conjecturals: We fear the very mentioning of so heinous crimes, without perspicuous proof, may redound to the irreparable dishonour of both Houses, yea of the Army it selfe. A report against an ordinary Elder, ought not to be received without two or three witnesses: Probables will not evince incredibles, with ponderous men: In things of so high nature, that cannot be proved, the safest way is to leave him to God, and to pray that he would be pleased to find out a way and time to discover and revenge them: National prayers in such cases are Gods Ordinances; we therefore humbly petition your Honours, that what is done in this case, may be done to a Nationall, we could wish to an universall satisfaction.

Whether



Whether a King be not a little Law-loose, for some personal vices, if not bound by the express letter of the Law, we do not now dispute: but that he is accountable to his State, for exorbitant crimes, that are Political and Coronal, we doubt not. Only, if they cannot be apparently proved, but vehemently suspected, we humbly conceive it is the duty of a State to lay him solemnly in such kind of Lavender as grows in the 27. of *Deuteronomy*, where assuredly God will find him, in his wisest season, and likewise fully discharge the State; it is an ordinance instituted by God for close nefarious sinners, and ought to be observed in all religious Governments.

And here, lest we should be thought to speak too moderately for him, we shall presume to add, That if some things declared against him can be proved with meridian evidence; if all the subjects of his three Kingdoms besides our selves, should cry *Vivat Rex* never so loud, we are resolved for our parts to say *Amen* so softly as neither God nor man shall hear us. Yea further if upon a personal Treaty he shall not manifest so much true repentance as to condescend to Religion and Reason; we shall look at him and his three States with as sad and moyst eyes, as any man or member of Parliament, be he who he will.

We also petition very humbly, that you would be pleased to apologize to the world the reasons why you now proceed upon such Allegations as we conceive were not unknown when you both pretended and intended such pious and tender respects to his Majesties person and dignity in your former Declarations, Remonstrances and Covenant. It is our duty to presume you have some new Overtures, or further grounds then were formerly in sight: But we humbly conceive, it were a necessary point of wisdom to publish them, lest the Religion and Loyalty of *England*, yea the Gospel it self, may suffer more then an *England* is worth; and succeeding Kings, in the like discurrances of State, have just grounds to distrust, yea to despise all such professions whatsoever: This we are assured, that those former pre-se-ferments, of such respects to his Majesty, have impaired our Parliament in such a Di-



*lemma*, as necessitates the greatest care that can be supposed to come off with good consciences and credits.

As for a Personal Treaty, and your Votes forbidding all addressees to, and from the King, under pain of death, though we be very loath to speak any thing to it, yet we dare do no less then humbly petition your Honors,

That you would please to consider seriously, whether God, at any time, hath given such a severe president by setting himself at such a peremptory distance, against any King, Kingdom, or man, we think not against *Saul*, as utterly to inhibit all addressees to and from himself: If he hath, the case of many of us subjects is very doleful: but that it may be so betwixt man and man, we do very much question.

That it was the manner of his own people, who best knew his mind, to set open a door and ear to the most capital Malefactor even till the very stroke of Execution.

That it is a great piece of every subjects Birthright, the very meanest, if he will require it, to be admitted to plead personally for himself, in any Case or Court of Justice within this Realm: And in criminal cases it cannot be avoyded. You indeed give room, that it may be done with leave of both Houses; but if you consider well, you make a way for your addressees to him, but how he shall find a path to make his addressees to you, is beyond common understanding.

We acknowledg, *London* may not be a fit place, in many respects, but we conceive there are sundry convenient places, neerer then the *Isle of Wight*, where there may be room and safety enough, or rather there then no where; You having sufficient strength very ready to attend you. As it is our duty, so it shall be our endeavour to pray earnestly, that neither the presence of a King, nor any tentation whatsoever, may avert you from such stable principles of Religion and State as concern the security both of Parliament and people; nor make you lose any lawful advantage, which God hath put into your hands; and that you may tie such firm knots upon your consultations and conclusions, that your fidelity may be crowned with our tranquillity, for many ages.

We also humbly beseech you, if you foresee necessary grounds

grounds, to re-admit his *Majesty* to his Throne, that you would please to do it in such time and manner, as may prevent all forcible endeavours from others, and rather gain and sweeten, then exasperate his Spirit towards you or us. It is far better he should come in upon a safe, free, and cordial invitation, then upon our fears, or in a way of triumph.

It is also rumoured, that there is an intention to reject the next of blood, or next issue: We know not how far those words may be interpreted, but if of all the Royal Branches, we humbly pray you to consider,

That God will look at the Justice of such an Act, as well as at the Prudence.

That *Henry* the eighth had an *Edward*, and an *Elizabeth*, as well as a *Mary*.

That God esteemed it a great mercy, to promise his people a constant succession of Kings in a continued line.

- That some of our Royal Stems are now by Gods special permission out of our reach; but how soon, or by what means they may reach us, and what Errors they may afterwards discover in our proceedings, is hard to presage.

That you would please to remember well, that the Subjects of *Scotland* and *Ireland* are Coparteners or Joyn-tenants with us in a King, and how we shall sue out a Writ of Partition, or how we can with Justice deny them a Head for their Crowns, or let them have one of the right line, and our selves none, without continual hostility, and invasions upon the Land, is far beyond our knowledg.

It is further whispered, that there are consultations about altering the fram or form of our civil Government: If it be so, we trust your Honors will pre-consider what a perplexed task it may prove, for this kickish Island govern'd by Royalty, ever since it was an inhabited piece of earth, for ought we know, now to suffer another kind of rule to back it: We sadly fear, it will try how the new Riders will set the saddle, though it break all its girths, yea its own neck. We profess, for our parts, we are of the birds or fowls mind; who, when they consulted about a King, would rather choose to be ruled by an Eagle, though he had but the wings of a fly, then by a Council of any other fowls, armed with Eagles talions.



That you would likewise foresee how difficult it will be to found a new Government with any stability, till the cause of the King be compleatly determined; which we humbly conceive cannot be so done by a tacite or implicate laying him aside as to found a firm basis for so weighty a frame as a new Government.

Here we are necessitated to inform your Honors with all the fidelity we have, and to entreat you to beleve us, That the Nobility and Gentry of the Land, who have propended so much to the Army, Sectaries and Toleration, are so generally hated, that the people will never be willing that any of them should have any share in supream authority, nor will ever be well ruled by those whom they so implacably detest.

That you would also foresee, that such an Innovation of Government will necessarily subjugate the Land a long while to Arbitrary Laws, and Irregular Judicatures, and turn all or most of our prescript Courts into *miss-Chanceries*, or *blazing-Star-Chambers*. And not only so, but bring us for many years under Martial Law, which is not very suitable to our *English* Spirits; though Souldiers have lived long, like Gentlemen of the Innes of Court, yet they are not fit for Commissions of the Peace.

That you would also consider before-hand what a dolefull story, and spectacle it will be, to see this Ancient and long flourishing Kingdome, to sit down in so sad a widdow-hood; to behold all our famous Clifses, Castles, and City walls, hung with mournfull Sable, our Tres-splendent Crown carried into a desolate Wardrope, there to remain as a mouldy monument of an extinct and lamented Majestie, and this Renowned Monarchie become the puny State of Christendome.

He that searcheth the hearts and reins, he that is Truth it self, doth, and we trust ever will bear us witness, that in all we have said concerning the King, his Issue, or New Government, we have neither wittingly nor willingly, laboured to bind the arm of Gods Sovereign Providence, to blind the eyes of so many Seers, to controule the Wisdome of so great an Assembly, or in the least measure to warp the Scepter of Supream Authoritie, rightly stretched forth against any person, how great soever; nor to plead for such, as the hand  
of

of divine Justice hath pointed out to guilt and punishment, be they never so high and potent. The true Reasons of our humble Freedom, in these our suggestions, are these:

It is frequently spoken, that the first Petition, which one of our Associated Counties preferred to the Parliament in the beginning of our late troubles, gave a great stop to his Majesties high proceedings against his Subjects; we hope being now guided by the same Spirit, we do according to our bounden duties, by this our present Petition, endeavour, what in us lies, to make the like stoppage of such high Proceedings, from the Subject, against his Majesty and his children, as out of our tender regard to the mind of God, honour of the Nation, and our sacred Covenant, we may fear to be carryed on with any partial, sinister, or over-zealous motions.

And the rather because we understand that there are two or three Petty-ritions, by some pragmatick Sectaries and their fiery Agents, with much industry scraped up in a few places, labouring to put your Honours on, with what violence they can, to serve their own ends: We thought it a necessary duty to counterpoise them as rationally as on the sudden we could, that you might be set perpendicular, in a true equanimity of Parliamentary Proceedings, in causes of such sublime consideration and lofty consequences.

We also consider the sins of the Nation to be out of measure sinful, the hearts of men to be locked up in obstinacy and impenitency; dayly provoking the eyes of Glory to just wrath; we therefore hope it will not displease God, if we



pursue mercy, and peace so far as we may, knowing that the more we forgive one another, the sooner he will forgive us all, at least, this temporall punishment.

The principallest reason which perswaded us, was our inward feares, that in this dangerous crisis of State, our Parliament might be somewhat valetudinarious, and possibly labour of some such distempers, as might make them somewhat unfit, to transact such transcendent affaires: We conceive it is the custome of this Land, when a Nobleman is sentenc'd to death, the sentence is not authentick, till it be signed by the King; We would be glad, if our Parliament be called by God to depose a King, it might be done with such trembling of heart, sadness of wisdom, and Divinity of Justice, as the King of Kings, may give his most legible *Fiat* thereunto. Were both the Houses so constituted for men, and minds, so intire from Opinionists, so unbiassed from the transported, and transporting Army, as we could wish; we hope our selves, and the whole Nation, would humbly and patiently attest, yea applaud any Act of State, though never so arduous, and egregious, whereunto the providence of God cleerly invited them: But things being as they are, the sins of the Kingdome so innumerable, and unanswerable, the spirits of the people so various, and tumultuous, authority at present so low in the dust, Neighbour Nations so unsatisfied, to say no more, our feares are very many, and great.

The next comfortless Division, is lately-grown between the Parliament and people. We mean not all the Parliament, nor all the people, but the greater part of both. They dayly complain,

That the Parliament adheres too much to Sectaries, and the Army.

That they suffer a great part of the Treasury, collected divers wayes in the Kingdom, to mis-carry, for want of due inspection, into the too large Fees, and too short accounts of Officers, or by being dispenced to particular persons, beyond their deserts, or secretly deposited for the Army, to maintain them in some designs yet unknown.

That they too readily imbrace unjust and insufficient Impeachments

peachments from the Army and their Adherents, against divers subjects in the Kingdome, who have been held very faithfull to the Parliamentary cause, which is too well pleasing to the adverse partee.

That they forsake the Ancient Rules of Law, in their proceedings against the Impeached, and take up irregular and arbitrary courses.

That they suffer many members of both Houses to be often and long absent, so that Orders and Ordinances of very weighty concernment to the Kingdome are frequently voted, and passed by a very empty Parliament, and a small party thereof; nothing safe, nor sutable to such momentous matters, and so great a State.

That sundry worthy Members, have been affronted in the Parliament yard, by rude Sectaries: and others taken out of their houses by some of the Army, and either have not been questioned, or very slightly punished.

That many of both houses, contrary to all good Rules of State, fled to an Army disbanded by Parliament, counter-banded by the people, comgaged themselves too much in their designs, and needlessly brought them up to the Parliament and City: which we fear can never be excused with all the Rhetorick they have, before God, or men.

That you too much forget your promises, and prolong your performances, due upon the *Publick Faith*.

That you are too ready to alienate such Lands, as were given, and consecrated to Church uses, which many conceive would make good enlargements to the defective livings of many poor and faithful Ministers.

That you have been too harsh to the well-deserving City, at the unreasonable motions of the now ill-deserving Army.

The truth of those things we aver not, being remote from the Seat of Agitation, but such are the murmurs of the people in these and other kinds, that the ancient Honor and Power of our former Parliaments, seem to be almost totally eclips'd by this present Assembly, and the late proceedings thereof, little regarded amongst the generality.



Wise men, when they seriously weigh these things, are filled with more grief for the deplored condition of the Kingdom, then they can or dare express.

We therefore most humbly and earnestly petition Your Honors; that you would be exceeding careful, not to undo the Realm, by undoing our Parliament, especially by the same, or very like courses, whereby the King and his Bishops have so lately undone themselves. It will be very sad, if ever this Land should have as just cause to groan under a Parliament, as to sigh under a King, whom that Parliament thought not worthy of his Throne; or that it should ever be whispered among good men, that a Parliament of *England* acted the affairs of State, so obliquely, that they dared sit no longer, then they had an Army of refractory Schismatics for their Life-guard.

That you would be pleased to regain the love of the people and honor of your Assembly, by making such a close of this Parliament, in healing all breaches and curing the wounds both of the Common-wealth and Churches, in settling the presence and peace of God amongst us; as may not only blot out all regrettings against you, but greatly enlarge the hearts of all loyal subjects to bless God for your piety, prudence, and industry improved in the difficult affairs of the Kingdom.

That if there be any Members, or Member of Parliament, that are noted to be very scandalous disparagements to the House, you would please either to vindicate their Names or discharge their persons for the Kingdoms honor sake. One, or a few execrable persons may hinder the service and success of many able worthy men.

In special, that you would give us a speedy and particular enumeration of what crimes are treasonable and capital, wherein we confess for the present many of us are benighted: and that you would presently put us out of all fear, that all your Proceedings in matters of Judicature shall be none other then have been formerly accounted legal and regular. If we be lost in these vital principles, it is time for every man, but the Army and their favorites, to write, *Lord have mercy upon us*, on our doors.



We also very importunately petition your Honours, that you would for time to come, be very abstemious in receiving the suggestions, and impeachments which the busie Souldiery, and their hot adherents, are so forward to tender to both houses, against Subjects as loyall as themselves. And here we humbly crave leave, to stand a while, and wonder, at their spirits, and consciences who are so sharp-sighted to espy the faults of others, and so stoneblinde, as not to see, the like or worse in themselves.

Have not they contrary to the counsell of good Physitians, given the whole Kingdome a *Clyster*, which hath purg'd out the increments of their estates, and many vitall spirits out of the Parliament? Where by the way, we could wish that the sin, and shame of the eleven Members in leaving their stations, trust, and Countrey, for fear of an Army, may stand upon a perpetuall record.

Did not they also on their own heads, lay a plaister to the breast of the Kingdome, the imperiall City of *London*, which hath brought the heart of the Land, into a fainting, and dying condition?

Were the Ships at *Rochel* pretending to aid the Protestants, cunningly imployed for their destruction; and hath not the Army appointed for our safeguard, as cunningly imployed themselves for the distraction of our Religion, and peace, and the destruction of our estates?

Have the bodies of many thousands been slain by these warres, and have not many thousand souls been poysoned with Errors, by these our warriors, and their seminaries?

Have Covenants, Oaths, Protestations, and imprecations, been broken on one side; and have they not been crack'd and sieghted on the other?

Is it a destructive *Maxime*, that the King oweth no accompt save only to God, and is it not as destructive a practice in the Army, to owe no accompt save only to themselves?

Is it a destructive Principle, that the Parliament cannot make, or declare Laws, and is it an edifying practice in them to constrain the Parliament to make, unmake, and declare Orders at their pleasure?

Did inforced Loan, privy Seals, and Monopolies grinde the Subject, and have not inforced Assesments, and free-quarter grated them as small?

Was it a sin, to raise an Army to force *Scotland* to comply with us; and is it no sin in the Army, to continue themselves at our charges, and against our wills, to force the Parliament to comply with us?

Was it a pious designe of the Queen to advance *Poperie*; and is it not a pious designe of the Army to advance *Fopperie*?

Was it a crime to delay, and detain the Earl of *Leicester*, from going against the Rebels in *Ireland*; and is it a vertue in them to hinder, even till now, the forces which our State were so willing to send against them long ago?

Was it amisse to send the *Papists* in *Ireland*, *Popish* Commanders, and to call off *Protestant* Officers; and is it now rightly done of the Army, to take off *Orthodox* Commanders in *England*, and to place *Sectaries*, and *Schismatics* in their room?

Was it ill done to fill the Tower, with new guards, *Canoneers*, and great pieces of battery, mounted against the City, to be managed by suspected Officers; and is it well done by them to doe the like, or more, under infected Officers?

Was a forcible entrance into the House of Commons, to fetch out five Members, an act of unparallel'd violence, and a prologue to a bloody Tragedy; and was the late horrible approach into *hide Park*, near the Parliament, to rend away eleven Members, an act of unparallel'd clemency, and a prologue to a plausible Comedy? Here we may adde that little flea-bite of disobedience to supream Authority of State, their taking the King out of the power, and possession of the Parliament: O infernall Arrogancy!

Were the good affections, and indeavours of the City, to interrupt that designe then so commendable; and are their like affections and indeavours to interrupt a very suspicious designe, now so punishable?

Were *Commissions* for attempting *New-Castle*, and *Hull*, apprehended so perillous; and are the Armies seizing of all, or most of the *Garrisons* of the Kingdome, upon their own wills, to their own ends, now apprehended so safe?

Was the pawning of the Jewels of the Crown, so *Irroyall*; and is not the taking away of the Jewels of the Subjects, even their bread, and beds, as *Illoyall*?

Was *Shipmoney* the compendium of our oppressions; and is not *Belt-money* the dispendium of our possessions?



As we know well, these things were declared by the Parliament, so we know in part, they were instigated thereto by the Army, and their Negotiators.

It were too great a wrong to us, Right Honourable, to interpret any thing we have now said, to be any, even the least controuling the Parliaments Declaration concerning the King, or extenuation of the Kings miscarriages, it is not any piece of our intent : Our onely aim is to shew the Army, their blinde partiality, in being so forward to accuse others, and so backward in observing their own sinfull misdemeanors; forgetting what the Scripture saith, wherefore *Thou art inexcusable O man, for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thy self: for thou that judgest another doest the same things; and thinkest thou O man, that judgest them that do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgement of God?* If they doe, without hearty, and speedy repentance, many are deceived : But chiefly to beseech your Honours, to be conscientiously deliberate, in taking, and pursuing their impeachments, against their fellow-Subjects, themselves being partakers in the like crimes, which in all laws is very considerable.

We confesse, that to such of the Army as stand so near the mark, that they are able to behold more then they can see, and to such of their *Seconds*, who have so deeply read the *Metaphysics* of our Laws, that they can metamorphoze them at pleasure, things may seem right, and streight, round, and square, of what figure soever they be; but for us plain Countrey-men, we esteem it, an invaluable piece of our happinesse, that we neither doe, nor ever hope to understand the true reasons, why seven Lords, eleven of our Commons, and four Aldermen of *London*, should be impeach'd of high treason; or why it should be call'd the stirring up of a new warre, for the City to stand in their own defence, again the insolencies and outrages of the old; But we ingeniously acknowledge, it becomes such as we are, rather to suffer our Ignorance, and Impatience to fall together by the ears, and to fight it out, then to question the sagacity of so keen a spirited Army, or the wisdom of a disturbed and over-ruled State.

The next dissension generall throughout the Land, is between the people themselves, under the titles of Malignants, and Parliamentarians: which though it arises from their own corrupt

distempers, yet it would work great peace in the Kingdom, if your Honours would please to cure it, with some convenient *Anodynes*: professing for our parts, that we dare not judge all those Malignants, whose judgements close not with ours, in some points of Royall Prerogatives, and that we think very long, to be friends with those our Neighbours, and Acquaintance, whose Morality, Civility, and Loyalty, is farre more gratefull to us, then the Religion of many whirl-crown'd, and bragg-braind Opinionists.

The last Division we shall mention, is the unkindly, and un-Christian fire, which Satan, and his instruments are now kindling betwixt our Kingdom, and the Realm of *Scotland*: whose Neighbour-hood, and Brother-hood, hath been, and may be so usefull to our Nation, whose prudence and concurrence in their domestick Councils, whose zeal to promote the purity, and authority of Religion, whose fidelity to us in our greatest straights, whose honesty in performing their Nationall promises, hath been so beautifull in our eyes, that we hold our selves bound in conscience to love, and honour them with our hearts, till they shall give us just cause to the contrary.

We humbly petition your Honours, speedily to cast all the waters you may, upon this fire, least the smoak thereof ascend towards the heavens, and breed such clouds of thundring, and lightning, as may probably set both Nations on a light and unquenchable flame.

We professe in the sight of God, and hearing of men, that we deem it a most accursed practice in any man, that shall indeavour to break any bands, wherewith God hath knit us together; We are not a little grieved, that your Honours will suffer any man, of what place soever, to alienate us from them, or them from us, by such offensive passages as all prudent, and moderate men abhorre. We presume you are not ignorant, that some have been boldly busie this way; whose very Names (if smoak argues fire) are enough to blast whatever passes through their hands, and to make all honest men surmize, that that cause, is so much the better, by how much the more such Asps spit their invectives against it. If it be not a weak piece of policy to kindle such coles, in a time when the Army is so distastd, the Parliament for their sake so deserted, in the hearts of men, and such hot disputes already  
lighted,



lighted, and cock'd between the two Kingdoms, our understandings fail us. Should we once give fire, and begin a warre, we humbly beseech you to spread all your care, and vigilancie to keep off rank Malignants, from combarking their aids, and counsels therein : for such bottles, as the Prophet saith, are now to full of wine ; yet if they would please, to take friendly advice from us, we would perswade them to be as still, and considerate as they may ; for we are much deceiv'd if God hath not an intent to suffer overgrown Royallists, and rank Sectarists to cut off each other, that the Kingdom may at length be quiet.

Concerning our unreasonable, and immeasurable Oppressions, which this Land hath, and doth suffer, we mean only such as have been imposed upon us, since our Kings coming to *Holdenby*, and the Order of Parliament to disband the Armie ; should we give the Houses a particular accompt of what incredible summes, Exeise, Assessements, and that devouring Freequarter hath amounted to in our Shires in generall, or in our severall Towns, and Families, many times beyond the means of our subsistence, the Rents of our Farms, and the Livings of our Ministers, it would rather yield matter of astonishment to the Parliament, and of wonderment to forreign Countries, then any sound hope of relief to our selves. And that which makes us judge it oppression indeed, is, that all, or most part of it, hath been mispent upon an Armie more numerous, then needfull : It being publicquely acknowledged by your honours, that our enemies are wholly subdued, and no face of warre, worth the looking on appearing in our English horizon.

An Armie that have done little or no other work for a long time, that we know of, but scattered their poisonous drugs in places where they have been quarter'd ; trebled the number of Malignants, exasperated their spirits to the highest degree of rage, and some of them uttered such scornfull, and mutinous language against the Parliament, as none but a stupid Nation would, or could endure ; that have mixed themselves with such drags of men, as we dare boldly affirm, that they are not those called, *chosen, and faithful, which follow the Lamb in his warres*, as some pretend, but a generation that want common honesty, civility, and modesty.

An Army, that runs the land every week into such Arrears,

that we can see no possible end of our exhaustments, that find the Parliament such continuall employment, that little or nothing can be done, but attendance upon their occasions, and pleasures, that have irreparably blemished the fame of our nation, blasted the face, broken the staffe of our strength, we mean the Illustrious City of *London*, whose bounteous and unanimous help in our time of perill, ought to have been better remembred, and required. Yea, unthriftilly, and prophanely bartered away their own former well-deserved honour, for just reproach, and dis-esteem.

An Army, that have so long swallowed the sweetness of other mens cares, and their owne ease, that we much feare they will never fall to any other trade, but to study such counsells, and invent such projects, as may give specious pretences, for them to spend the remainder of their lives in idleness, and too many of them in rapine, and leudness; still persisting to carve out such contrivalls, as neither themselves, nor all the wisdom in the Land, know how to doe or undoe: The truth is, their waies are so crooked, that themselves cannot tell this week, what they would have the next, unlesse it be money to pursue their owne sins, and our sorrowes.

An Army, that have done more harme by exanimating, and cowing the Spirits of Englishmen, by their graceless domineering over them, with their ods of number, and other advantages, then half their heads are worth, and so it will appeare, if there be any new cause of tryall, unlesse against themselves.

An Army, that harbour, such amongst them, as would not only cut the Kingdom shorter by the Head, but by the Shoulders also, if they could, by the bereaving us of the most honourable House of Peeres, and degrading them from their ancient place and use in the Parliament of *England*.

An Army, that is the likeliest mean that can be supposed, to open another Feuntain of warre, and provoke new streames of blood amongst our selves, or from other parts; witness the generall discontents, and murmurings, the late Tumults, and the Northern threatening storms, arising against their daring, and provoking courses; and when they shall see black tempests a coming, will probably find some unworthy shift, or shelter for themselves, and expose the Parliament to raise other forces to save themselves, and us if they can.

An Army that entertaines a multitude of *Jannes* and *Jambres*



*bres* who wanting both wit and grace, have laboured what they can to debauch the faithfull, and able Ministry of the Land, that themselves may exercise their gifts in publike Congregations, and play the Apes in Pulpits, so ignorantly and impudently, that it is a thousand shames for a State to suffer such malepert fooleries, and horrible exorbitancies to passe unpunished.

An Army, that have done what they may, to pave a way to a relapse of usurpation and revenge, seven fold worse then in times past, if the adverse party can but once lift up their hands to their Head.

An Army that have brought the Affaires of the Kingdome into such confusion, and the State into such disorder; that the honest, and wiser men are, the lesse they know what they may, or can, or ought to doe: unless it be to repent them more of their sins, to live by faith, to look up to God onely for helpe, from whom alone it can now be expected, and in the meane while, to keep off further evils, so far as they dare.

An Army, which put us out of all hope, that ever the peace of the Land can be settled, so long as they are on foot in their disobedient wayes.

We would not be understood (Right Honourable) to censure all the Army, wherein we hope there are divers trul/ godly, others misled by ignorance, necessity, and martiall Sophistry; we intend only Sectaries, and persons devoted to ill counsell, and attempts; against whom if we have spoken high, we pray your Honours, to set their free quarter, against our free language, their hungry teeth, against our angry tongues; and to consider that the boldness of our speech, falls farre short of the insolencies of their actions, your selves being Judges: Trusting it will prove no great offence, that we speak what we can for our lives, while we are speaking for the lives of two Parliaments, and three Kingdomes. The deepsence of these things, have occasioned us such uncessant griefs, and importable burthens, as inevitably compell us to preferre these our humble Petitions to both the Honourable Houses.

That you would be pleased seasonably to declare to the Kingdome, the true Reasons why they are continued in such great numbers, and to so great charges; that our hearts may be somewhat eased, though our purses may not. For our parts we can conceive no other grounds but these.

I. They



1. They are resolved to have a Toleration of their impious Errors, and Opinions, which they call *Liberty of Conscience* : that is the prime purchase they seem to aim at.
2. To place Government, and authority in the hands of such, as shall protect them therein, against all opposition whatsoever.
3. To maintain their Army in full force, till these their ends be fully accomplished, and all indeavours against them thoroughly silenced.
4. To furnish their Officers, whereof many are risen from mean trades and estates, with such enlargements, as may keep them from falling down again, to such low conditions, as their pride, and span-new Gentries will not indure.

We most earnestly obtest your Honours, that you would doe the Kingdome that right, to search out with all diligence, who were the first Councillors and Instigators, not to disband, but to pursue these their designs; which have not only retarded the settlement of our peace, and the recovery of *Ireland*, but reingulfed us in so many new feares, that the visage of things looks as ghastly upon us now, as when we were in the highest hurries of our late concussions : We neither can, nor dare expresse our thoughts of that Parliament which should rise, before such men be thoroughly fallen, if they can be discovered : the estates of these Projectors, and of the chief perpetrators of their counsels, are fittest to pay the late Arrears of the Army.

Should your Honours see just cause, that a competent Army should be still maintained, for the suppression of stirring and implacable Spirits ; which we apprehend very necessary ; we then earnestly petition both Houses, that you would be pleased to let every County and Shire raise, and keep in a readinesse, a sufficient number of trusty, and well-armed horsemen, under knowne and faithfull Officers true to the League and Covenant, commanded in chiefe by the valiant and worthy Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, placed prudently in fit parts of every Shire ; who with the speedy aid of Trained Bands and Auxiliaries, we question not, would do the work, with more acceptance to God, and the Countrey, then this troublesome, and unbeloved Army : Which if your Honours please to grant, we easily presume, not only our *Associate Counties*, but all the Shires, and Cities in the Land, will performe at their own free

free charges, looking for no recompence from the State.

If this be not thought meet, we then most earnestly petition you to perswade the chief commanders of this Army to purge their Regiments and companies of all mutinous, seditious, and Schismaticall Officers and Souldiers, and the rest to submit wholly to the wisdom and will of the Parliament, not meddling in State matters any further then other Subjects do, which if they would perform in the fear of God, as we should be glad of their further faithfull service, in case of need, So we doubt not but the hearts and affections of all good men would be renewed towards them so vnfaignedly and abundantly, that all past miscarriages would soon be remitted and forgotten.

We also humbly petition that you would please not to ingage, or put off the best pledges in your disposall, for the pay of this craving Army; but to receive as sufficient to repay our disbursements, upon the publike faith, which our present and urgent wants constrain us to call for.

We also very humbly petition your honours, that you would speedily recall a late order, as we conceive, which gives leave to Souldiers to enter and take up free quarter in the houses, of such as are return'd insolvent of their Assessments, which every man is not able to pay at the time required, many good Subjects taking it very unkindly, that their former freeness to assist the Kindome in a time of need, should be soon required, rather with a point of *Turkish slavery*, then *English equity*, exercised upon them by dissolute Fellows, not worthy to be their servants.

We understand of late, that sundry godly and knowing men, begin to make a question of paying these continued Taxes, for this Army, as formerly of Loans, and Shipmoney: and probably we shall shortly hear of many, that will returne to those old Principles, as not to pay without legall distresse.

We therefore beseech your Honours, so to consider consciences sincerely tender in this point, as not to resign them up for Prey's to rude Souldiers; but to order Collectors with the help of Constables, to distrain for what is Arrear, in a peaceable, and reasonable manner, upon such as would rather yeeld passive obedience to Authority, then be active against their own Judgements: or if you please, to see some equall penalty, for what



shall not be brought in to State-Receiver's at daies prescribed. But this we now mention, may be spared, if you please to accept of our former tender of sufficient forces, at our proper, and voluntary charges.

We also humbly beseech you that you would speedily give out an Order, which may impower every Minister, and Churchwarden in their respective places, to keep all Souldiers out of their Pulpits, and every Householder to discharge his house of any of the Army, that shall be tampering directly, or indirectly with any of their Family, to corrupt them with their vain, and sleazy opinions, about Religion; and that none of them may abide in their houses on the Lords day, in time of publike Worship unlesse they be sick, or very necessarily detained.

That none of them shall take up their quarters in any house, unlesse they bring their Tickets subscribed with one or both of the Coustables names, to avoid forgery and villany, which is not every where unpractised.

That you would forbid them to prophane the Lords daies, by their ordinary marching, and travailling, when there is neither hast nor need; and command the common Souldiers, to work constantly on the week daies, and not to spend their own times, and other mens comforts idly, 20000 men may well earne 20000 £. a moneth, in most parts of *England* towards their pay and maintenance.

We also petition the case being with us as it is, that no Officer of the Army, may sit as a Member of either House of Parliament, at which many of the people are very much grieved.

That you would also please to prescribe them speedily and cleerly, what crimes are to be capitall amongst themselves, in their Martiall Courts; or Councells, and not to leave them loose, to their arbitrary ignorance, and wilfull understandings: and likewise give liberty to Subjects, whensoever they are wronged by the insolencies of Souldiers, to complain either to the Officers of the Army, or to Justices of Peace, which they think fittest. We see no reason, why men of warre should be in Commission of Peace, or our Trespassers be our Judges.

That you would have a very speciall care of the Navy; we fear that some Sectaries, if they be hard put to on Land, will put as hard

hard to Sea, as they can; and their consciences take liberty, to carry away our Ships, and restore them again, when we can get them. We hear our golden daies are gone, or going, and we fear they will goe with them, or after them as fast as they can.

We also humbly petition your Honours, that you would consider, how unreasonably the Land is wasted, by innumerable multitudes of robbing, and begging Souldiers, and other vagabonds swarming daily at our doors; it is impossible for us to maintain two Armies, one of cravers, and another of takers, without utter sinking of our stocks, and estates: there seem to be so many stout walkers every where, that if they can plot their Rendezvous and a few armes, they are able to trouble every shire in the land: There are also a company of counterfeit Egyptians, that where ever they come, they teach solitary and discontented women the devillish skill of sorcery and witchcraft.

We dare not forget forgotten *Ireland*, to whose relief we importunately implore you to send sufficient aid, before this summers Sun be hot, lest all hopes of recovering that Countrey, and avenging that quarrell, grow utterly cold; sadly professing, that we shall labour to wash our hands of that bloud, by instant prayer, that God would either stirre up means to expiate his wrath for it, or to charge it upon their heads, who have either cunningly or negligently impeded that now almost insensible service.

Were these evils but a transient *Tragedy*, we might uphold our heads and hearts with some hope of a timely issue, but to live, breathe, and pine away in a continuall element of consumption, and calamity, enforced upon us by our own servants, at our own charges, we mean by the Army, is more then either Christianity, or humanity can, or will, or ought to bear.



Next unto God, our eyes have been upon your Honours, into whose hands we committed our selves, expecting that you would long ere this, have expedited us out of these deadly snares, but your delays treble our sorrows. We thankfully acknowledge, while ye were a full, and free Parliament, we gathered full clusters, and reaped rich harvests of your fidelity, and industry, but now you are so Army-pinion'd and obses'd with Sectaries, and thereby so divided among your selves, that publike affairs stick in the birth, even till the Mother is ready to yeeld up her life: of whose unsupportable throwes, we are so sensible, that we cannot forbear to turn our bleeding hearts, and weeping eyes towards you, and to take up the very complaints which the people of God have utter'd to himself, in their like afflictions; hoping neither his Holinesse, nor your Honours, will be offended, with such words as may make deepest impressions in your mindes, and fittest expressions of our sorrows.

Give us leave then to say, How long, Right Honourable, will you forget us? how long shall we take counsell in our souls, with daily sorrow in our hearts? how long shall our oppressors be exalted over us? The waters of affliction are come into our bowels, we are sinking in deep mire, where there is no standing, we are compassed about with an evil net, our waies are fenced up, darkness is set in our pathes, we are destroyed on every side, troops of sorrows encamp about, yea within our Tabernacles; our estates are consumed like smok; our hopes smitten, and withered like grasse, our bread begins to turn into ashes, our drink to be mingled with tears, we are hedged about, and cannot get out, our chaines are very heavy, we are a derision to other people, and their Song a'l the day; Our souls are removed farre from peace, our joyes are departed, we have almost forgotten prosperity.

But that which makes us ready to look, and lay out our winding sheets, is our apprehension of your inaffectednes, with these our publike miseries: We cry out of wrong, but we are not heard; we cry aloud but can hear of no Judgement: Right Honourable, why have you thus forsaken us? why are you so farre from helping us, and from the words of our mournings?

we spend our daies in grief, and our yeàrs in sighing, we look for justice, but it doth not overtake us, we seem to be forgot-  
ten as dead men: we are become like broken vessels: You open  
your ears to the Army, and Sectaries, but our supplications are  
shut out; we have long waited for light, but behold obscurity,  
forbrightnesse, but we are still in darknesse, we grope as if we  
had no eyes in our Politicall heads, we mourn like Doves for  
deliverance, but it appears not, for salvation, but it is farre  
from us.

We most humbly beseech you, to awaken your selves, and all  
that you are, to the Cause of God, and his people; delay us no  
longer, to the fainting of our hearts, but make haste to renew  
our daies, and comforts, and do not give us cause to end our  
complaints despairingly; saying with the lamenting *Israelites*;  
*You have utterly rejected us.*

Our last and earnest petition is, and daily shall be to the God  
of all wisdom, and mercy, that he would abundantly pardon  
what is past, and henceforth lead you into the Pathes of Truth  
and Peace, and ever enable us to be

Your Honours most humble

and faithfull Servants

in the work of God,

and the service of

this greatly afflicted Kingdome.

**B**Eing very tenderly unwilling, that our selves, or these our Petitions, &c. should incurre any just dislike, or loose any due effects, in the hearts of good and equall-minded men, by being published without subscriptions of our Names, or formall presentment to the Parliament; we hold it our duty to render more fully, and clearly, our true excuses thereof; uprightly professing, that we are such, as utterly abhorre all scandalous, and mutinous papers, or practises, and that we have none other desire, or design: therein, but to further the speedy settlement of the snarl'd, and contortuplicated affairs of the State, and Church: to which we are deeply bound, by our consciences, Covenant, and naturall affection to our Countrey, and posterity; and that we are confined to this manner of acting, by these following Reasons:

An indispensable necessity of speaking some way, or other, that we may wash our hands, of the guilt of many publike disorders, every where seen, and felt, to the great dishonour of God, the heavy grievances of the loyall Subjects, and of being accessory to their future calamities, that are now apparently and dangerously clouding round about us.

The evil fruits of our long patience, and silence.

The present condition of the two Houses of Parliament, being neither free, nor full, as we humbly conceive.

The disrespect, that some former Petitions and Petitioners have met with, though very modest in our eyes.

The ingagement of some Members of Parliament, to live, and die with the Army in all or many of their designs, which we suspect to be the very womb of our felt, and feared miseries, and most like to prove the grave of our hopes, and happiness.

The diligence of the Army, and their Agents, in improving some good men, and many ill means, to obstruct the passage of Petitions in some of our Countries, at least as we hear.

A Petition on foot, fram'd by the Army, or their Councils, threatening as we conceive, little less: then Anarchy, and confusion both in State, and Church.

The menaces of some of the Army, or their favourers, to get such question'd, yea sequestred, that act in any Petition contrary to them, such is their swoln *Pride*.



The multitude of Officers amongst us, belonging to the Souldiery, who seem more active in plotting our ruine, then we dare be in preserving our selves.

If we have unwittingly, and unwillingly exceeded, we humbly beseech your Honours, to take our last excuse, out of *Eccles.* 7.7. We doe not ascribe much wisdom to our selves, we have no cause; but so much understanding God hath left us, that we can see he hath greatly withdrawn his presence from this Kingdome, and many of the counsels, and enterprises thereof, so forlorn, that we are not overcarefull, whether we live, or whether we die, so we may die in his favour, who is able to pardon our sins, though he doth take vengeance of the inventions of these fantastick, and atheistick times; which we greatly fear he will, both suddenly, and severely, if we shut our eyes but a little longer against his waies of wisdom, truth and peace.

From the *Eastern*  
*Association*,  
April. 12.  
1648.

Imprimatur,

*Ja. Cranford.*  
May 2. 1648.

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